

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 086477

21

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

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DRAFTED BY EA/IMS:ECINGRAHAM

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R 160150Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 086477

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, MY

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION ON OIL DISTRIBUTORS

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 1964.

1. WASHINGTON MANAGER FOR CALTEX CALLED AT DEPT APRIL 14 TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER NEW PETROLEUM ACT AMENDMENT. HIS VIEWS PARALLELED THOSE EARLIER EXPRESSED IN WASHINGTON AND KUALA LUMPUR BY ESSO AND MOBIL. HE OBSERVED THAT CALTEX OFFICIALS, DISCUSSING AMENDMENT WITH GOM OFFICIALS IN KUALA LUMPUR, HAD FOUND THIRD-RANKING PETRONAS OFFICIAL, RASTAM, ESPECIALLY HARD LINE REGARDING REFINERY PROJECT, SUGGESTING PETRONAS MIGHT BUILD OWN REFINERY, AND HAD INDICATED THAT COMPANIES MIGHT ALSO LOSE PIONEER TAX STATUS
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PAGE 02 STATE 086477

IN THEIR VENTURES. CALTEX OFFICIAL AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT RASTAM'S VIEWS DID NOT SEEM TO BE SHARED BY OTHERS IN GOM. DEPTOFFS INFORMED CALTEX OFFICIAL THAT EMBASSY HAD CONVEYED TO FOREIGN OFFICE OUR CONCERN OVER AMENDMENT.

2. YOUR APPROACH TO FOREIGN OFFICE AND CONVERSATION WITH DATUK AHMAD ZAINAL WAS MOST HELPFUL, WITH ALL NECESSARY POINTS ABLY MADE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE DEEPLY INTERESTED IN ANY FURTHER INDICATIONS OF GOM INTENTIONS AS TO IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW AMENDMENT AND REACTIONS THERETO. WOULD

ALSO APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS AS TO WHETHER GOM IS AWARE OF U.S. LEGISLATION RELATING TO NATIONALIZATION AND HAS GIVEN ANY THOUGHT TO ITS POSSIBLE APPLICATION TO ACTIONS MALAYSIANS MAY TAKE UNDER NEW AMENDMENT.

3. SEPTTEL FORTHCOMING SHORTLY WILL DISCUSS LEGAL ASPECTS NEW AMENDMENT. KISSINGER

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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